

# Bethany Community Support

1977 – 2023

**Other Names:**

- Bethany Community Support Inc.
- Bethany Family Support

**URL:** <http://www.bethany.org.au/>

## Details

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Bethany Community Support, a child and family welfare agency, was formed in 1977. Formerly, Bethany operated as an adoption agency and babies home, and was known as the Bethany Babies' Home. Bethany Community Support was an independent, voluntary organisation with no political or religious affiliations. In April 2023, Bethany merged with Barwon Child Youth & Family (BCYF) to form a new organisation, [Meli](#).

In 1977, when Bethany ceased operations as an adoption agency and babies' home, all records pertaining to individuals, placements and adoptions were transferred to the Victorian government. Department of Human Services. These records can be accessed through the Victorian Adoption Information Service.

In December 2008 Bethany opened its new offices in Grovedale at Shop 10, 147 Marshalltown Rd. A number of programs are located there including Innovations Casework, Housing, Community Kitchens, Homework Clubs and Saver Plus.

Bethany Community Support retained some historical records of a general nature and a number of old photographs, some donated by former mothercraft nurses. However there is little background information to put the photos into context.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Geelong Female Refuge (1868 - 1928)
  - Bethany Babies' Home (1928 - 1977)
- **Bethany Community Support (1977 – 2023)**
  - Meli (2023 - current)

### Related Entries

### Resources

- Swain, Shurlee, *A refuge at Kildare: the history of the Geelong Female Refuge and Bethany Babies' Home*, 1985
- Kruss, Susan, *Bethany: Serving the Community - a social history, 1977-2007*, 2008
- [Geelong Female Refuge/Bethany Babies' Home \(1868-current\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance*: See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Bethany Community Support

# Records

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## Records

- [Bethany Community Support Records \(1896 - 2007?\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/bethany-community-support/>